

# Memorandum

To : Bob Reid  
Sacramento

Date : February 29, 1984

Subject: UIC Injection Zone  
Exemption  
Mount Poso Field  
Olcese Zone

From : Department of Conservation—  
Division of Oil and Gas

Place: Bakersfield

The subject zone exemption request, submitted by Macpherson Oil Company, is enclosed. Macpherson has injected produced waste water into the Olcese zone since December 1974 in the West area in well "Ring 20" 3 and since August 1975 in the southern tip of the Main area in well "Tribe A" 10. Offsetting "Tribe A" 10, John L. Sowers has injected since November 1978 in the Baker-Grover area in well "Tribe B" 65WD-28. The waste water, produced from the Vedder zone, generally tests between 1500-2500 ppm total dissolved solids and has the potential for beneficial use. In fact, surface discharge of produced waste water was allowed for several years for use as range water.

The request for zone exemption is based upon two points:

1. Formation water in the Olcese zone is unsuitable for use.
2. The Olcese zone is hydrocarbon bearing.

Based upon these points, we do not feel an exemption should be granted for the following reasons:

1. The Olcese zone water is of relatively good quality, testing 900-1100 ppm total dissolved solids. The water analyses taken from "Tribe A" 6, which is located approximately 1/4 mile directly updip from the injection well, "Tribe A" 10, tested oil and grease, as shown in the enclosure. The UIC, however, makes a clear distinction that water of a quality better than 3000 ppm total dissolved solids must be protected from degradation unless it can be proven that it is so contaminated that it would be economically or technologically impractical to render it fit for human consumption. There is no reference in the UIC to Class 2 or 3 waters.
2. The Division has no evidence, or reason to believe, that the Olcese zone has the potential for commercial hydrocarbon production. The core analysis enclosed is from a well located at least 2-1/2 miles away, and no attempt has been made to produce from the Olcese at this, or any other, location in Mount Poso field.

*Hal Bopp*

Hal Bopp  
Senior Oil and Gas Engineer

HB:mm

Enclosure